

North-Central *Build Wisconsin* Regional Workshop Small Group Record

Small Group Green (color)

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Top 10 responses to the question: “What can the State do to foster economic growth in your region?”

Priority response #1 (votes: 6) Quality, affordable childcare.

Priority response #2 (votes: 6) Encourage entrepreneurship and business development through grants and loans.

Priority response #3 (votes: 5) Regionalization of service.

Priority response #4 (votes: 4)_Sharing property tax base.

Priority response #5 (votes: 2) Rewire the country and provide incentives to provide high tech services to rural customers.

Priority response #6 (votes: 2) Development of agriculture research and development.

Priority response #7 (votes: 2) Encourage the entire state to become a tech zone.

Priority response #8 (votes: 2) Promote community quality of life in central Wisconsin, concentrating on attracting young workers.

Priority response #9 (votes: 2) Create a technology transfer system from research to business.

Priority response #10 (votes: 2) Stem local sales tax to where it is generated.

Priority response #11 (votes: 2) Provide funding for growing , expanding facilities to generate skilled employees.

Priority response #12 (votes: 2) Provide adequate re-training funds to dislocated workers.

“Actions Necessary to Achieve our Ideas” Exercise

“If we want to accomplish this [priority issue #1], what does “the State” (as defined earlier) have to do now?”

Priority Issue #1 Quality and affordable childcare.

Responses to the question: “If we want to accomplish this [priority issue], what does “the State” (as defined earlier) have to do now?”

- *Provide incentives to employers to provide on-sight child care.
- *Provide funding/grants to small communities to open private or community based child care centers (24/7).
- *Provide guidance to communities on how to address their specific child care needs.
- *Assist parents with the cost of child care through exemptions or credits.
- *Allow home child care providers to increase number of children without being certified.
- *Allow school classroom space to be used for day care center.
- *Provide incentives for people to enter child care field.
- *Increase salary—pay for training.
- *Provide for nanny-type services.
- *Trying employers to allow their employees to address individual child care needs—promote “family friendly policy.”
- *Enhance family medical leave beyond six months.
- *State to provide funding to communities to do an assessment of local child care needs.
- *Offer incentives so that both parents do not have to work.
- *Increase incentives to provide infant care.
- *Encourage before and after child care in the schools and when there are snow days.
- *Marketing to CEO’s on the benefits of quality affordable child care.
- *Quality background checks for child care workers.
- *Develop child care youth apprenticeships.

Priority Issue #2 Encourage entrepreneurship and business development through loans, grants, venture capital, SBDC training and support for small business centers.

Responses to the question: “If we want to accomplish this [priority issue], what does “the State” (as defined earlier) have to do now?”

*Increase amounts of incubator grants.

*Increase the CAPCO program from \$50M to \$100M.

*Increase the number of SBDC’s around the state—utilize outreach within SBDC service areas.

*Building small business funding structure within the banking industry—incentives for banks to make loans.

*Education opportunities through SBDC to high schools regarding entrepreneurship, and local business opportunities.

*Teaching entrepreneurship—high school level.

*State website for complete one stop information center, business starts ups.

*Account ability for SBDC to measure effectiveness.

*Provide funding to establish a small business incubator center in each county with a maximum of one consultant at not cost to the entrepreneur.

*More user friendly loan applications.

*Matching grants to local economic development organization for venture capital.

*Encourage Department of Commerce to evaluate criteria for CDGB’s.